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HYPERKIND™

PAGE
PREVIEW



ORI

DIRECT EDITION



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VEXU
VICTORI

MARVEL

RAZORPINE
MAGAZINE

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ELITE
BAND
ACTION
ISSUE!



SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF

CLIVE BARKER

LET'S DO IT,
HYPERKIND!

5
S!

MONSTERS

WHATHEHECK!?
LOOKS LIKE JOHN HAD AN
ACE UP HIS SLEEVE--BUT
SO DO WE!

**--GEORGE YANEDA,
WHO HIDES WITHIN
HIM THE SHARP-
EDGED AMOKK--**

YOU'RE
IN IT, NOW,
MUNROE!

WE KNEW PARAGON
JOHN WOULD USE TRIP'S
TV DEBUT TO MAKE ALL
HYPERKIND LOOK BAD.

BUT
NOW WHAT
DO WE DO
KENNY?

HOW COULD MY FATHER BE WORKING FOR THIS MADMAN?! HE'D KILL HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE JUST TO SCARE HIS TV AUDIENCE!

LET'S GO,
WE'VE GOT
POWER L

--KENNY ZAMBETTI AND
DYAN DIVINE, WHOSE
POWERS EMBODY
INTELLECT AND
DREAM AS
LOSIK AND BLISS--

-AND LISA MOFFIT, THE ARMORED LIVING WEAPON CALLED **ARMATA**!

PARAGON JOHN DOORE USED ME-- IN EVEN MORE WAYS THAN YOUR AVERAGE TV EXEC WOULD!

HIS MACHINE
HERE TWISTED MY POWERS
TO UNLEASH THOSE...
THINGIES FROM THE

--MADE ME HIS CATALYTIC
CONVERTER FOR THIS
CATASTROPHE.

RUN!

MEDIA MOGUL *PARASON JOHN* ONCE ENGINEERED THE DOWNFALL OF THE PREVIOUS GENERATION OF HYPERKIND, THE *PAXIS*...

...AND NOW HE'S JUST *UPPED THE ANTE* IN HIS EFFORT TO *ERADICATE* AND *DISGRACE* THEIR HEIRS--

LISA!
TO
UP!

HERE?!
PARASON JOHN
WILL FIND OUT
WHO WE REALLY
ARE!

CHECK YOUR PURSE,
LISA--I PREPARED
FOR THAT LITTLE
CONTINGENCY!

HEY!
YOU DON'T
OWN
ME ANYMORE,
HOTSHOT!
OR MY
PURSE!

FINE--
JUST TAKE
THESE *SMOKE*
BOMBS AS A
TOKEN OF MY
AFFECTION,
OKAY?

SAVE
THE BUNTER,
KENNY--

LET'S
GO!

NOW THAT I'VE
FREED MYSELF, I'VE
GOTTA HELP THOSE
HYPERKIDS WITH THIS
DISASTER!

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BACK, BLEG!
OUR GLADNESS IS
NOT PRESENT
MERE!

FIND ARKUS!
KILL ARKUS!

ONLY WE VON
BLEG! I USED
THE LONK-UP
OF VIGIL!

YOU WANT
IT EVER AFTER
TO SEE IT!

LOW
CHANGING OF
YOU TO GET UP
OUT OF THOSE
ARCHAIC
STRESS!

I'M AMBERGEE
WANTING YOU TO
SEE I
PREVIOUSLY'S
CONTRAST OF
YOU...

ON YOUR
TECHNOLOGY!
HAPPY!

ALL TO TONG
THE GEE TO FEEL
THE PROBABLY
FREEDY. '6 NICE,
SH, ARGUMENT
ANCE...

STAMPED PLEASED,
GREAT! THE GEE WERE
TO ACCORD, ALL OUR
NOTHING MORE!

WITH THE
PROG DEFENSE
HE WILL BE RELEASED
FROM OUR CLIMED
EXISTENCE.

DEAD
AT LAST—OLD
MACHES NO
LONGER!

ALL THIS
JOURNEY! HOW
LONG HAVE THESE
MACHES BEEN
SHUT UP?

BUT
HOW DO WE
KNOW IT'S
GONE?

THESE THING WERE PLANNED ON
REVEALING THEMSELVES AS
ARCHAIC ON LIVE NETWORK TV.

HOW ABOUT, AMBERGEE, LOOK
AND BLEG HAVE SOME NEW
PROBLEMS ON THEIR MINDS.

PROBLEMS THAT JUST MIGHT
MEAN THE END OF THIS.

SUPER-
VILLAINS!
ALL TOGETHER!

DO YOU
HAVE TO BE SO
ANTI-TECHNICAL?
SMOKE IT!

YEAH, DUDE!
THESE BOTS ARE BEST
ON WIPING THE FLOOR
WITH PILING COORDINATE,
AFTER ALL, BUT THEY
MIGHT JUST GETTLE
FOR CAN!

HYPERKIND

VEXUS UNLEASHED!



CREATED BY OLIVE BARKER
SCRIPT—JESSE BLUMBERG PENCILS—JAMES GILLMAN
INKS—BOB PETROSCA & MIKE MALLARD COLOR—TOM SMITH
LETTERS—VANCE WILLIAMS EDITOR—JIMMY AND JERRY
COVER—TOM PETROSCA ADULTERATION EDITOR—AUGUSTIN SMITH
EXECUTIVE EDITOR—CARL POTTIS

IN THE DIRECTOR'S BOOTH, PARAGON JOHN WATCHES ANXIOUSLY...

...AS HIS PLANS FALL APART.

BLAST!
THIS WAS
NOT
PART OF THE
PLAN!

MUST SHUT DOWN
THE LIVE SATELLITE
TRANSMISSION--

--OR ALL MY
DECADES OF WORK
WILL HAVE BEEN FOR
NOTHING!

**HYPERKIND
ALERT! PARACORPS
EVACUATE THE
BUILDING!**

JUST
WHAT I'VE
LEARNED..

MY REALITY
SHOULD HAVE
WOULD--
HEROES

FROM THE
FAITHFUL ON THE
SHINING PATH!



DO
NOT ENGAGE THE
HYPERKIND--
PROTECT HUMAN
LIVES AT ALL
COSTS!



IT'S TRUE...
THE PAXIS ARE
REAL!



WHAT'D
YOU SAY,
LADY?

WHAT DO
YOU KNOW ABOUT
THE PAXIS?



CHECK
T THESE
BE
S...

...SO...COLD...

WHAT IS IT,
LOGIX?

A...A NULLIFYING
FIELD--BUT WHAT
DOES IT DO?

H-HOW CAN
WE HOPE TO WIN...?
WE--WERE FOOLS TO
TAKE ON THESE POWERS...
THERMAK WAS RIGHT!

"TELL ME, LADY!
WHAT IS THIS
SHINING PATH?!"



NO!
ONE OF
THE
PARACORPS
GOT HER--

--BUT
SHE KNOWS!
SHE
KNOWS!

SHE'S
TELLIN' YOU
NOTHIN',
BEAST!

FWD

OUCH!

KNOWS WHAT,
LUMPY? THAT MY
COLDGOLD WILL GIVE
YOU THE MAMMOTH
FREEZE...

...WHILE MY
COMPATRIOTS
DESTROY YOUR LITTLE
FRIENDS?! THE
VERXUS ARE NO SMALL
ADVERSARIES--

...VIGIL
ALREADY ENCASES
YOUR COMRADES
IN HIS AURA OF
**FETTY
RATIONALISM**,
HIS "REALITY
CHECK"...

... WHILE
ANAKKEE
STANDS AT THE
READY, WITH
HER POWER TO
DISRUPT **CAUSE**
AND **EFFECT**,
DESTROYING
THE "**NORMAL**"
WORLD
VIEW!...

...WITH BOTH
QUIETUS' icy
TOUCH OF
PERVERSION AND
DEATH...

...AND **SLOS'S**
MINDLESS MIGHT,
MINE TO
COMMAND!



BUILDING
EVACUATED!

I FEEL SO
STRANGE...LIKE
SOMETHING'S
MISSING!

THEY'RE SO
MUCH BIGGER THAN
WE ARE...
LIKE MY FATHER.

"... WE ARE THE **VEXUS**...
AND WE BOW TO NO ONE!"

TH-THIS IS
CRAZY! HOW
CAN I FIRE BULLETS
I NEVER EVEN
LOADED?!





YOWIE!

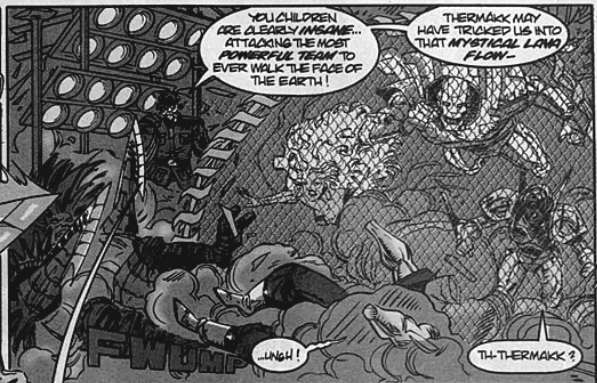
CEASE YOUR
INTERFERENCE
AND SURRENDER
NOW!

FWAK!

NEVER!

NOW
GO GROPE
SOMEONE YOUR
OWN SIZE!

IF YOUR
STUBS CAN
HANDLE IT,
THAT IS!



YOU CHILDREN
ARE CLEARLY INSANE...
ATTACKING THE MOST
POWERFUL TEAM TO
EVER WALK THE FACE OF
THE EARTH!

THERMAKK MAY
HAVE TRICKED US INTO
THAT MYSTICAL LAVA
FLOW-

FWUMP

...LNGH!

TH-THERMAKK?



-BUT
EVEN HAWAII'S
GREATEST POWER
COULDN'T STOP
US FROM OUR
QUEST...

...AND
NOW WE
WILL FINISH
WHAT WE
STARTED--

-THE DEATH
OF FAXIS!

HAWAII?



THEY DON'T KNOW THEY'VE BEEN
IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION!

TIME FLIES
WHEN YOU'RE
A CHUNK OF
ROCK!



BUT
SOMETHING
IS AMISS,
VIGIL!

WE ARE NOT AT
MT. KONAKALAI...

A SWEE
TURNS
INTO



SOME OF
THESE BUILDINGS
I HAVE BEEN
BEFORE...

IT
IS LOS
ANGELES!
BUT SO
HUGE...

...HOW
COULD THEY
HAVE BUILT
UP SO MUCH...
UNLESS...

...UNLESS THESE
"PARAGONS" OF YOURS KNOCKED
YOU OUT OF COMMISSION...
FOR DECADES...

...UNTIL
PARAGON JOHN
DECIDED TO USE
ME TO GET YOU
FREE!



P OF QUIETUS'S ARM
FIRM STEEL WALLS
ANCIENT RUST...

...REVEALING--

-LOS
ANGELES?!

BUT TRIP MUNROE
ALWAYS CLEANS UP
HIS MESSSES!"

THOUGHT A LITTLE
AMPLUTATION WOULD
BOTHER ME?

I'VE STILL
GOT YOU BY THE
THROAT!

NO MERE
FLESH FOR ME!
MAMMON IS
COMPOSED OF PUREST
COLDGOLD!

AND NOW MY
FROZEN GLITTER WILL
COAT YOUR FACE...

...LEAVING YOU
BREATHLESS WITH
ANTICIPATION!



"AS YOUR FRIENDS SUFFER
HELPLESSLY WITHIN THE
REALITY CHECK, KEPT
TOO CONFUSED AND AFRAID
TO STOP US!"

NOW! WHILE HE'S
DISTRACTED!

BUT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!
THEY KEEP TALKING
ABOUT KILLING THE
PAXIS...

"BUT AREN'T
WE THE—

**SHUT UP,
BLISS!**

**STOP
CLINGIN'
TO LOGIX...**



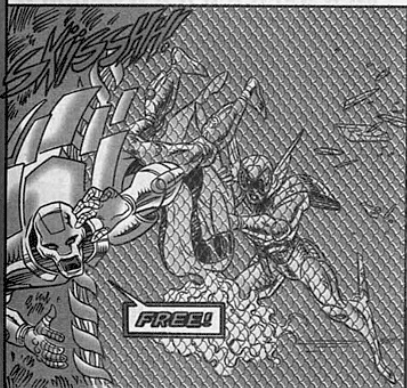
HER **TANTRUM**
THREW US FREE OF THAT
WEIRD FIELD!

NEVER THOUGHT
ONE OF LISA'S **JEALOUS**
FITS WOULD SAVE OUR
BEHINDS!



HOW DO
I GRIP MY
BRAIN?!

**JUST SHUT
UP AND FIGHT,
OKAY?**





...CAN'T...
BREATHE...

...FEEL SO
ALONE... LIKE THE
REST OF THE
WORLD...
JUST DOESN'T
MATTER...

LOCKED WITHIN THE
BENLUMING GLITTER,
AMOKK SUCCLUMBS TO
THE LURE OF SELF-
OBSSESSION--THE
WORLDLY INFLUENCE...
OF MAMMON!



ching

GAVAVA!





QUIETUS!
SLOG! BRING ME
THE GIRLS!



THEY'RE
CONCEALED
SOMEWHERE
IN THIS
SMOKE!



NOW YOU
WENT AND RUINED
OUR **HIDE-AND-SEEK!**

WELL, OKAY,
LADY--MAYBE YOU
PREFER **DUELING**
WITH **RAZORS!**

IMMOBILIZE
HIM!

**SLOG OBEY
MAMMON...**



AND **SLOG**
IS MORE YOUR
TYPE, DON'T YOU
THINK?









IT'S NO
USE--THE BIG
LUG IS LIVING
TISSUE!

NOT BIG LUG--
BIG SLOG!

GUESS!
EVERYBODY'S A
COMEDIAN!

FUNNY
LIGHTS PUSH
SLOG BACK!
SLOG GO
OUT!

LET SLOG
GO, PRETTY
LADY!



BE
NICE 2 U
AND LET
GO OF M
FRIEND
AND YOU
CAN BOUN
DOWN
HOLLYWOOD
BOULEVARD
FOR ALL
CARE!

MUST OBEY
MAMMON--NOT
PRETTY LADY!

LOGIX!

THE
YOUTHS
82H

THAT'S RIGHT,
SLOG—AND I THINK
THE PRETTY LADY WAS
FORGOTTEN—

I-UH...

—REAL
PEOPLE CAN'T
FLY! LET
US SEE HOW YOU
BOUNCE!

WHAT
ABOUT ME,
TOOTS?

GIVE
A GIRL A
LIFT?

CRASH!

CRASH!

ARMATA!
LOOK OUT FOR
MAMMON!

NO! ARMATA!!

THE PARAGON PICTURES
BUILDING
HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS...

SLOG GO
OUT!

...FIRST RAVAGED IN
THE BATTLE BETWEEN
THE HYPERKIND AND
THERMAKK...

...NOW PUNCTURED BY
THE VEXUS IN THEIR
ONGOING ASSAULT!

LUCKILY, PARAGON
JOHN
HAS INSURANCE...

HE'S
SWALLOWED
UP ANOKK
COMPLETE-
LY!

HOW DO WE
GET DOUGHBOY
TO BURP ?!

WH-WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME ?!

GAA!
HE LET GO!
GUESS HE'S
WORRIED I'D
GIVE HIM
INDIGESTION
WHEN WE
HIT !

WAIT
WHAT
THAN

AMINNT!
& FUNNIER
A BURP?

THE WHOOPEE
CUSHION EXPANDS,
TRIP'S POWER
INFLATING IT TO
ENORMOUS
PROPORTIONS!

ISN'T SOME-
ONE GOING TO SAY,
"EXCUSE ME"?

FRRRRAP!

BUT ASTENSION--AND WIND--
IS BROKEN BELOW,
ARMATA FINDS HERSELF
ESTABLISHED IN MAMMON'S
ENMESHED COLDGOLD...



YOU MONSTER!
LET HER LOOSE!

SO...COLD...

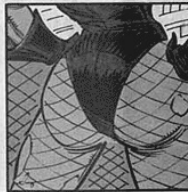
...UNABLE TO THINK
OF ANYONE BUT
HERSELF!

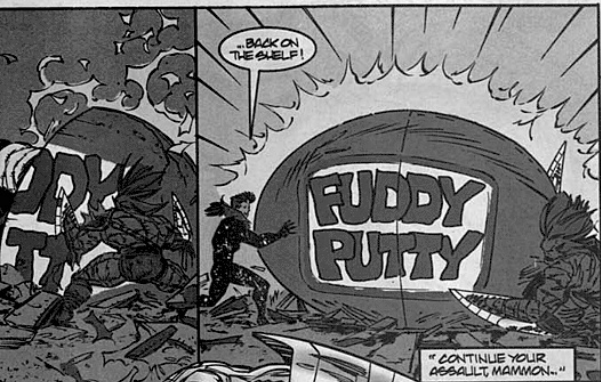
OR WOULD
THEY...MISS ME
TOO MUCH...OUT
THERE...?



WITH THE PRIMAL FURY
OF ANIMAL INSTINCT,
AMOKK ATTACKS...







"CONTINUE YOUR ASSAULT, MAMMON..."



YOU WOULD RATHER
NOT FACE UP TO THE GRIM
REALITIES OF LIFE, EH,
LITTLE ONE?

WHY CAN'T
YOU JUST LEAVE
US ALONE?!

AS BLISS BEGINS TO CRUMPLE
UNDER PESSIMISM OF VIGIL'S R

BLISS!
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

SHE'LL
BE FINE--

BETTER
THAN YOU,
ANYWAY!

LE UNDER THE CRUEL
REALITY CHECK...

COME!
SHARE YOUR
SECRETS!
WHAT IS IT
YOU'RE HIDING
FROM...?



...TRIP'S MAGIC HANDKERCHIEF
COMES TO LIFE, CUTTING
BLISS OFF FROM THE FLOW OF
VIGIL'S DEADLY SCRUTINY!

AS VIGIL RETURNS
TO ACTION,
AMOKK PUSHES ON!

...CAN'T...
GIVE...UP...



WON'T
GIVE UP!

WHILE...

HOW MUCH
LONGER CAN THEIR
SENSELESS CORNAGE
LAST?!



SO FAR I'VE BEEN ABLE
TO QUELL AUTHORITIES--
BUT IF THIS GOES ON,
I MAY HAVE TO END
THIS MYSELF!



A QUESTION ON VEXUS LEADER
MAMMON'S MIND AS WELL...



GOT TO SEE HOW
FAR I CAN PUSH MY
POWER AGAINST THIS
LEPRECHAUN!

STAND ASIDE!
WE KNOW THE PAXIS HAVE
PLACED YOU HERE TO SLOW
OUR PURSUIT!

BUT YOUR
INTERFERENCE WILL
NOT DETER THE
VEXUS FROM OUR
REVENGE!





GOT TO JOIN THE
HYPERKIND!
BUT SO
FRIGHTENED...

...YESTERDAY
I WAS CARRYING
AN AIRPLANE
TO EARTH*...

...AND NOW
I CAN BARELY
HOLD MYSELF
TOGETHER!

SO...WE
ARE THE LAST
TO REMAIN
ABOVE...

...THE
OTHERS HAVING
USED MY
EXITWAY TO
MAKE THEIR
ESCAPE.

ESCAPE
NOTHING!

NOW IT
IS OUR TURN!
BLESSED EARTH
CALLS...



GOTTA GET
A HOLD OF
MYSELF!

I THINK I CAN
I THINK I CAN I
I THINK I CAN...

LET
LOOSE, GIRL!
GIVE IT YOUR
ALL!

AND AT LAST, ARMATA
POSS--FIRING
BULLET AFTER
BULLET AND BLAST
AFTER BLAST...

...GLOWING
BRIGHTER
AND
BRIGHTER...

...AN UNCEASING
BARRAGE THAT
THE SILENT
QUIETUS ABSORBS...

...A NEW STAR
IN THE
SKIES ABOVE
HOLLYWOOD!



BELOW, THE NIGHT
IS LIT WITH
A BRILLIANT
GLOW...

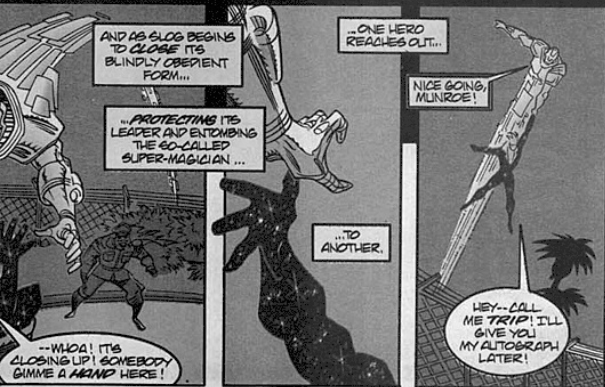
QUIETUS
WILL SOON JOIN US...
AND THE VEXUS
CAN SEEK OUR TRUE
ENEMIES!

NO REJECTS
FROM A HALLOWEEN
PARADE ARE GOING
WALK OUT ON MY
PARTY!

SLOG...
PROTECT
ME!



YEAH, SLOG...
PROTECT ME!





LET
MAMMON
LOOSE!
SLOG!

SLOG
PROTECT!

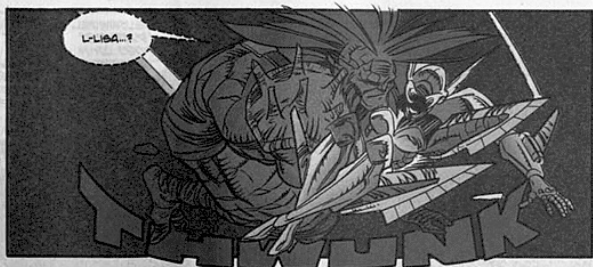
I'LL RIP
YOU APART, YOU
MORON!

BACK OFF!
IT'S TIME TO LEAVE
THIS PLACE! WHERE'S
QUIETUS?

A-ARMATA?!



GOT TO
BREAK HER FALL!
SHE'S NOT
EVEN TRYIN' TO
FLY!



MOMENTS LATER, SIRENS BREAK
THE SILENCE OF A BATTLE
NOW CONCLUDED...

I DO NOT
THINK YOU REALIZE
JUST HOW LUCKY
YOU ARE...

LUCKY?

TO HAVE
TEAMMATES... FRIENDS
YOU CAN DEPEND ON
IN A FIGHT.

TEAMMATES ARE ONLY AS
GOOD AS THE TEAMWORK
THEY EMPLOY, I'M AFRAID.

YES... YOU'LL HAVE TO GET
YOUR ACT TOGETHER--
IF YOU KNOW WHAT
I MEAN...

...FOR NOW, THAT
VEXUS WILL NO
LONGER... VEXUS!!
HAH! GET IT?

WE
ALLIES
THESE
SHOR
TH

I DIDN'T
MEAN--

MEAN
THOSE
THAT A

IT WOULD
BE SO GOOD TO
HAVE ALLIES--
HELP IN
STOPPING
FELON BALE
FROM TAKING
OVER OUR
WORLD...

THE
HAK
E
TO P
JOHN

ARE NOT YOUR
--AND I'D RATHER
GOODBYES WERE
T... NEVER MIND
= SWEET!



YOU DIDN'T
WHAT?! WHEN
GUYS REALIZE
HERE THE NEW
PAXIS...

...ARE YOU GONNA DELIVER
THE EULOGY?!

MAYBE IF YOU
HIT THE ROAD NOW,
THEY'LL FOLLOW YOU--
AND WE CAN SORT OUT
THIS MESS!



I--
I'M SORRY!

I SHOULD GET
GOING--MY FRIEND MONA
LISA'S IN THE HOSPITAL--

YOU REALLY **SHOULD**
GET OUT OF HERE. THE
LAST THING YOU NEED
IS MORE **BAD**
PUBLICITY-- OR
MORE TIME IN JAIL...



...BUT YOU
OWE ME THAT
AUTOGRAPH--
OKAY?

AND SO
TRIP
MUNROE
CAN ONLY
WALK
AWAY...

...AS HE HAS
SO MANY
TIMES IN
THE PAST...



...AND WILL
SO MANY
TIMES IN
THE FUTURE...

WHAT'S EATIN' YOU,
TOUGH GUY?! I MEAN,
HERE HE IS, DELIVERING
A SPEECH ON TEAM-
WORK, AND YOU WALK UP
LIKE THE ATTITUDE
POSTER CHILD!



RE WAS NO
ARM DONE--
EXCEPT
PARAGON
S STUDIO...

NO
HARM...?!
WHAT ABOUT
ARMATA
TEAMMATES'?

THE VEXUS
KILLED HERE!



NEXT: WITH ARMATA'S LIFE ON THE LINE, AMOKK,
LOGIX, AND BLISS MUST FOLLOW
THE SHINING PATH... TO AMBERTRANCE!
BUT THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES ON THE TRAIL!

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
RAZORLINE
C/O MARVEL
387 PARK AVE. SO.
NEW YORK, NY 10016

MARC McLAURIN - EDITOR
SPENCER LAMM - ASST. EDITOR
MALCOLM SMITH - CONSULTING
EDITOR

HYPERKIND

ho ho ho

Marc McLaurin The holiday season is upon us, and if your year has been anything like mine, it's struck up silently on little cat feet. What to do, what to give, what to get, the questions fall like the snow in New York City, pure at the onset, but quickly muddled and turned to sludge. But here at the RAZORLINE offices, the holiday season has us doubly excited, as we frantically prepare the myriad of presents we'll be doling out in '94! Here's a taste of what's to come:

better to give

We'll have amazing and astounding new DEVELOPMENTS in all the RAZORLINE titles! This will include a major RAZORLINE crossover beginning in April, complete with a cross-title romance and a threat that may very well end the Earth as we know it! To half-ways here, we'll be dramatically shaking up each of the four current RAZORLINE titles in a major way. If you love these characters, you'll want to be on-hand. If you're just checking them out, you haven't seen nothing yet!

what's to receive

We're also adding, beginning in April, three new RAZORLINE titles to the roster, with more new ideas among the freshest that comics have ever seen! If that's not enough to put you in the spirit, why not flip to the last page of this book, and consider a RAZORLINE subscription for that friend in desperate need of something different? Just a thought. And it's the thought that counts...

It's our third letters column, and some of us are getting kind of tired of the generic header that tops this page. Whaddya say, folks — any suggestions? I'm sure that we can come up with a nifty prize for the best title. In the meantime, we've still getting some of the best mail around — and we want to hear from you! Drop us a line!

Dear Mr. McLaurin,

Some thoughts on HYPERKIND. My first impulse, on seeing this book, is to say that the team is Barker's rendition of the Fantastic Four after a side-trip through DC's Vertigo line and a brief stop in the Hellraiser universe! But such an attitude

would not only be needlessly flippant, it'd be incorrect as well!

I'm pleased to see that the talented Fred Burke has found a home here at Razorline. The last I recall seeing of his writing was on the phase series at Eclipse, a tragically short-lived book that deserved a bigger audience than it found. Fred seems to have already taken steps to imbue the various Hyperkind with a set of distinct personalities and moral outlooks, and I look forward to seeing him develop these personalities along with each hero's powers as the series progresses.

I hope Fred is also aware that we continuity-minded fans will eventually want to learn as much as we can about the members of the Faxis, fallen though they might be. I myself am particularly interested in learning how specifically they were different from the various Hyperkind, and how they fell in battle... if in fact that's how they all disappeared! If not, then the details of just what did happen to them are also high on my list of things to delve into!

In the meantime, count me in for the long haul as one very impressed reader. If next week's debut of ECTONID is as impressive, you can expect another rave review like this one then!

David Peattie
4517 Birch Bark Rd.
Concord, CA 94521

Thanks for the great comments, David! I hope last issue fulfilled your expectations of how the Faxis were conquered. Let us know what you thought!

Dear Marc and Malcolm,

In a day when new super teams are a dime a dozen, HYPERKIND may have an edge right off the bat. To begin with, the origins of their powers seem to be more well thought out than most new characters. They are a team of the present, yet, somehow, they are strangely linked to a super group of the past. Who were these heroes? Was Eschbacher the only one to survive to the present day? Why was he searching for new heroes? And finally, why does no one else remember that WWI was actually a war of worlds and not nations? One thing I did notice, however, was that on page 19 five power sarcophagi are pictured and only four were used in this story. I don't know what you have in mind, but I'm kind of hoping that the unused sarcophagus could somehow be used to revive Eschbacher. These kids are going to need all the help they can get.

I was also wondering about a couple of other things. First, on page 21, Professor X's name pops up in George's thought

balloon. Are the characters of the Barbersverse also part of the regular Marvel Universe? Please tell me that it isn't so. The new Razorline characters are a fresh, unknown quantity, and it would be a shame to shake them right off with thirty-odd years of universal continuity. Actually, it might be nice to see a few crossovers with Marvel's darker, magically powered figures. However, I hope if these crossovers do occur, it is stated that all characters concerned are from two separate dimensions.

Peace from the desert,

Bill D. Middleton
1708 N. Prince St.
Clovis, NM 88101

It isn't so, Bill! As you've figured out by now, George's references to the Marvel Universe are because he's a comic book collector! And if you think about it, in light of Paragon John's revelations this issue, comic books are a pretty subversive item in the Paragon-controlled, heroless world that the characters live in. By the 1990's, if John Doore had completely gotten his way, there would be no more idealistic young heroes in the pages of comics — only dark, dark anti-heroes, powerful beings without heroic virtue at all! The fact that there are still people like George — buying, reading, and collecting titles in which virtue triumphs — must really stick in PJ's craw!

NEXT

Amata, dead? Her only hope of survival is for the team to solve the riddle locked within the children's rhyme we first heard in issue #3, 'A Faxis a Faxis, we'll tell you what the faxis...' But even the answers will not prepare them for the wonders they'll find on...

'The Shining Path...to Ambertrance'

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

HOKUM & HEX #6:

Trip is back in New York City, a media celebrity! Will all this unwanted attention give the Earth's mightiest mortal magician a swelled head — or a busted gut? Find out as he goes head-to-head with the champion of Felon Bale: Bloodshed! Part one of a four-part story that will redefine Trip Munroe — and may destroy Earth's champion!

SAINT SEVER #6:

The origin of the mysteriously powerful refuge from the Ectosphere. Crooked-Face Half-Head! And the revelation of an impending disaster that will shake all the worlds of the Decamundi! Only the Saint Sinner can stop it — but he hasn't a clue how!

THE RAZOR'S EDGE

FROM DOODLES TO DECAMUNDI

By Malcolyn Smith

How do creators of imaginative works, specifically writers or painters, first express their ideas?

Easy, you say, writers make notes, and painters make sketches. Well, for most of us out there, that's probably true. You use whatever tool you're most comfortable with: a pen or a paintbrush.



An early ECTONID.

As a writer myself, I stick to words. I read somewhere that the vast majority of us never get past a sixth grade level of drawing. Even with the amazing painting program I have on my computer, the best thing I can create is a stick family in front of a stick house with a stick tree next to it.

Then there's my friend, a really talented oil painter whose command of the English language is on the level of Beavis and Butt-head. (Well, not quite that bad.) He very wisely keeps to painting for his artistic expression.

Now we come to a much smaller category: those artists that are skilled in both mediums. This is where Clive Barker fits in. As you may or may not know, Clive began his career as a painter, then took up writing, and has only recently begun to paint again for exhibition. But even when he wasn't

displaying his drawings and paintings to the public (except in the form of an occasional book cover), he was always drawing for himself.

Taking full advantage of his dual talents, he's developed his own type of graphic shorthand as a quick method of recording an idea. Countless Clive Barker characters and stories have first found life in the form of a crude sketch on a white piece of paper, single images representing tips of mythological icebergs.

And that's where the creation of the BARKERVERSE came in.

With the help of the guys at Marvel and an excellent team of writers and artists, Clive set about creating the DECA-MUNDI, a world of action-filled, anything-can-happen, super-hero stomping grounds—a place where his ideas could not only flourish, but run rampant! And that's what's happening.

It's looking

like these creations are going to have lives outside of comics as well. ECTONID is on its way to becoming an animated TV show. And there's already some talk about feature films being made of HORUM & HEX and HYPER KIND.

Just remember, whatever other forms these stories ultimately



SAINT SINNER, post possession.

take you readers are seeing it here first, not off the imaginative press, and it's your letters and suggestions that are going to help shape the unfolding worlds of the BARKERVERSE into something so unique and exciting as to make comic book history!

It's great that MARVEL's helped find a way for us all to benefit from Clive's prolific imagination, and his

unique way of recording

it. I'll keep you posted on the new RAZORLINE titles. There's still an ever-growing pile of Clive's sketches that are just waiting for their shot at the big time; title as a RAZORLINE comic!



A just birthed BULL BABY.